

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
June 25, 2014

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Vera Ward, Susannah Everett, Paul Shapiro, Rich Miller, George Rawitscher (guest), John Carrington (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Stoddard.

The March 12, April 9 and May 14, 2014 minutes were approved on a motion by Shapiro/Everett.

The committee discussed and approved, on a motion by Shapiro/Miller, changing the Town Manager's role from a voting sustainability committee member to an ex-officio member. Walton will draft a memo recommending this change to the Committee on Committees.

John Carrington, Director of Public Works, reported on the progress of including a bike path along Route 195 where the water main is going to be placed. Connecticut Water Company will not be widening the road since the water line will be located in the road. It was questioned whether a bike lane could be included on the existing road. It was unclear who at Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) would be a complete street liaison for this project. Stoddard stated that CT DOT is charged with making sure that a portion of their road projects include pedestrian and bike access. Stoddard tried to find out who deals with complete streets at CT DOT without success, but will continue to pursue finding the appropriate contact, as will Miller and Carrington. Carrington will let the transportation advisory committee know that the sustainability committee is advocating for pedestrian/bike access along Route 195.

Miller spoke about his presentations this spring at two conferences - the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium conference at Brown University and a Climate Strategies Forum in Washington DC. He addressed stakeholder engagement and used the evolution of UConn's environmental initiatives as an example. Part of his presentation included the results of a pre-conference survey about sustainability efforts from other universities.

The committee continued its discussion from last meeting about offering a program on climate change. In order to inform families with young children, Everett volunteered to ask the Board of Education if there would be interest in a district wide science fair that features kids' solutions to climate change. In addition, the committee will wait until the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan is adopted so that it can be used as a framework for a climate change working session with town committees. George Rawitscher offered to identify someone who could serve as a risk assessment resource.

Miller stated that he is willing to present a program about UConn's current environmental initiatives for town committees and commissions. Since it was a Conservation Commission member who invited Miller to do this, it was decided that the presentation should be offered through conservation commission. Walton will initiate the arrangements.

For the July meeting, Lon Hultgren, the chair of the transportation advisory committee, will be invited to discuss the actions needed to make Mansfield a bike-friendly community. Carrington offered to forward the League of American Bicyclists' written response to last year's application for the committee to review.

Stoddard reported that the Windham energy committee is reorganizing their efforts, and although they are interested in working with the Town on energy efficiency projects, they were not prepared to jump into the Georgetown energy efficiency competition.

The next meeting will be held July 9, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton